As we greet 2008, it’s a pleasure to step back and see what a stellar 2007 we helped to create. The Department of Anthropology gained a new faculty member, Dr. Julie Velásquez Runk, was cheered by faculty achievement—Dr. Virginia Nazarea’s William Owens Creative Research Award; new book-length publications by Professors Nazarea, Rhoades, Hally, Kowalewski, Bobe and Reitz—while maintaining vibrant undergraduate and graduate academic programs. The department’s focus, ecological and environmental anthropology, has garnered well-deserved recognition within the larger anthropological community for its excellence in research and graduate student mentorship. The department’s research is diverse in subject and scope yet hews to the departmental focus. Examples of this diversity include: Dr. Bram Tucker’s NSF-funded studies in rural, southwest Madagascar; Dr. Stephen Kowalewski’s on-going regional studies in the Mixteca Alta; Dr. René Bobe’s paleoanthropological research in Ethiopia and Kenya; Dr. Susan Tanner’s study of Bolivian parental knowledge and childhood health; Dr. Ted Gragson’s NSF-sponsored long-term Ecological Research (LTER); Dr. Julie Velásquez Runk’s study of Wounaan identity in Panama, and Columbian myths; and my own archeological studies of the Irene-Guale cultures of the Georgia Coast.

The Laboratory of Archaeology under the direction of Dr. Mark Williams has expanded its collection space, complete with a mezzanine, to the recently renovated Robards Building on Atlanta Highway.

Drs. Brent Berlin and Sergio Quesada-Aldana have moved the Latin American-Caribbean Studies Institute (LACSI) forward toward full independence from our department while maintaining important instructional ties that benefit both units’ student majors.

Dr. Peter Brosius, with MacArthur Foundation funding, directs the Center for Integrative Conservation Research and has raised our department’s international standing by his service on the boards of the World Conservation Union and the World Commission on Protected Areas.

2007 saw the approval of a new and innovative graduate program for our department, a Masters of Science degree track in Archaeological Resource Management. This new 12-month degree program kicks off in fall 2008 with its first cohort. We anticipate it to become as recognized, in its own right, as our doctoral program in ecological and environmental anthropology.

We look forward to 2008 with anticipation. Part of our enthusiasm is predicated on our on-going searches for two new faculty members to further enhance our instructional and research missions. Our intrepid graduate students continue to research and travel the globe, while winning signal honors along the way. I look forward to meeting you as we create this year.

Sincerely yours,

Erv Garrison
Anthropology Society

With more undergraduate students participating than ever before, we have started off the semester strong with our “Get to Know Your Professors” series. The society invites professors to speak about their experiences as anthropologists, their research and what they love about what they do. We successfully met our goal, that our students grow more comfortable with speaking to their professors. Now office hours aren’t so intimidating. We have also enjoyed bringing guest speakers from other institutions, such as the GBI. Later this semester, in April, our organization will be taking a weekend trip to Etowah Indian Mounds. Etowah is one of the largest and most popular archaeology sites in Georgia and very few of our students have visited this area. It’s a must-see!

As a student organization representing such a diverse field as anthropology, we strive to include all areas of this amazing social and physical science. We hope all of our students find their desired niche and wish to continue in their studies. Our experienced faculty is our greatest asset.

The Anthropology Society has allowed our students to get to know one another outside of the classroom. We have presented post-graduation options to our students and created opportunities to interact with our department’s graduate students to ask those overwhelming questions about graduate school from those who are experiencing it today. We hope to continue to grow and influence more UGA students.

— Meredith Tise

SAAS

Speaking for SAAS, we are a group of interested undergraduate and graduate students who come together to quench their thirst for archaeology. Sounds good? Wait to hear the rest of it. Every semester we go on volunteer digs across the state. We have worked on sites near home like the Athens Historical Cemetery to sites far from here like the Thompson Site near Calhoun, Georgia. What’s even better is that no experience of any kind is necessary. We get together, sharpen our trowels, and line up like faithful soldiers and attack (gently!), cutting the surface of a beautiful 2X2 to try to somehow figure out what the ancient folks were up to! If we are lucky, on occasion we replace the small trowels for big shovels and attempt to dig our own square. (Archaeologists are obsessed with squares!) But that’s not all we do. On occasion we have guest speakers. Last time we had a local archaeologist who talked to us about the famous Marry Musgrove Site. Last semester SAAS hosted Dr. Payson Sheets who talked to us about his amazing projects in Costa Rica. Sometimes we watch movies (Indiana Jones is a favorite). And sometimes we just get out there, going to schools, or getting involved in community projects to better inform our beloved Athens community of the importance of archaeology. While having fun, we strive for knowledge, and eventually SAAS will find a cozy place on our resumes and CVs. But what is more important is the experience we gain, the friendships we make, and the fun. We meet on the second Monday of every month. If you are interested, feel free to e-mail me (ssamei@uga.edu.) Archaeology is where all the fun is!

— Siavash Samei

Lambda Alpha, National Collegiate Honor Society for Anthropology

In fall 2007, our first students and professors were inducted into Lambda Alpha, Zeta Chapter of Georgia, with a lifetime membership. With strong requirements of good GPA and academic standing, these students are recognized in the department as individuals who excel. The society encourages research and provides scholarship opportunities to anthropology students throughout the United States. Currently with 34 undergraduate students, two graduate students and three professors, our presence is strong in the department.

As our chapter grows, we continue to reach out to students, especially if they have goals of continuing in an anthropological path after graduations. We have plans to work with the people in our community to promote an anthropological understanding of our culture and focus on how we can help various groups in Athens, Georgia. Each semester we plan on doing one service project in which our members will have hands-on experience out in the field or in our community.

— Meredith Tise
“Don’t call them communes,” says Josh Lockyer. It’s not that Dr. Lockyer (UGA Ph.D. 2007) isn’t interested in communal living; he’s devoted his research career to it. Rather, he’d like people to think beyond the stereotypical hippie image, in which people came together with vague benign ideals, then drifted apart. He studies modern ecovillages, sustainability-oriented intentional communities. The ecovillage movement has, since the 1990s, seen the rise of hundreds if not thousands of such groups. Dr. Lockyer focused his dissertation research on two, Celo Community and Earthaven Ecovillage, both in N. Carolina.

Dr. Lockyer began his research as the first Research Fellow of the Communal Studies Association, an organization “dedicated to the understanding and study of intentional, contemporary and ‘utopian’ communities” both in the U.S. and internationally. He researches communities formed by those who focus on the implications of their consumptive lifestyle as it affects their own well-being and the society and environment in which they live.

Both Celo, founded in 1937, and Earthaven, started in 1994, are “sustainability-oriented,” as Dr. Lockyer calls their drive to reduce their footprint upon the environment and society. These groups share features common to many intentional communities worldwide: namely, they have communal ownership of land and sometimes other property, as well as communal governance and membership structures, and they pursue growth toward sustainability, as evidenced by the “relocalization” of food and energy sources, creating local networks to produce their needs.

Josh Lockyer’s research recognizes that fundamental societal and environmental changes can be made by assessing our actions, but “we can make these changes more effectively in the context of local-scale communities than we can on our own.” Dr. Lockyer’s ongoing research examines the why’s and how’s of ecovillagers’ attempts to create more sustainable lifestyles and he hopes that the results can be useful to a variety of audiences: from ecovillagers to policy-makers, to the general public. “Contemporary intentional communitarians have done a great job of learning from the past and from each other to create more resilient and sustainable communities,” he says. “Academics can contribute to their effectiveness by providing databases and comparative and contextual analyses” of what worked and what didn’t work and why in various communities. Dr. Lockyer would also like his research to be useful to policy-makers. Currently many governmental issues, such as waste management and zoning regulations arise when new communities form because they are often experimenting with alternative forms of ecological building and waste cycling. Dr. Lockyer would like his work to serve as a resource for policy makers to facilitate the goals of sustainability-oriented intentional communities. And finally, Dr. Lockyer hopes that his research might also kindle hope among the general public that change is possible.

People who live in today’s sustainability-oriented intentional communities really come from all walks of life and are united, in part, by a desire to take responsibility for the impact of their lifestyle on society and the environment.

Currently an instructor, Dr. Lockyer expects to join the interdisciplinary project RESOLVE (Research Group on Lifestyles Values and Environment) at the University of Surrey, U.K., either as a Visiting Fellow or a postdoctoral associate starting this summer.

Here in Baldwin

Intended consequences—Josh Lockyer and ecovillages

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Top– Community Meeting at Celo, where 85 members live on 1200 acres northeast of Asheville, N.C. Bottom– A solar-powered home at Earthaven, where 60 members live on 320 acres southeast of Asheville.

Dr. Julie Velásquez Runk with the Wounaan in Panama with her field assistant, Floriselda Peña, Ms. Peña is now Vice President of the Wounann National Congress, and a University of Panama student studying international relations. They are wearing body art in ink made from unripe fruit of the jagua tree (Genipa americana)...

...And her students, in Athens, displaying their class-applied jagua tattoos. The Wonmeu word is k’ipaar. While formerly both men and women wore the body art, it is now typically worn by women in times of celebration.
Where in the world?

Graduate student Adam Henne works on his dissertation, “The Social Life of Wood” in Valdivia, Chile, where he worked with an NGO supporting sustainable forestry. He’s now in Chicago finishing the writing, while his wife is a visiting artist at Columbia College, S.C. In the fall he’ll start a tenure-track job in the departments of anthropology and international studies at the University of Wyoming.

Amber Huff, in Madagascar, at Ankililale, a southwestern village in the Mikea Forest region. Traveling with Elaina Lill, they conducted research both for their dissertations and for Dr. Bram Tucker. Amber conducted interviews in the region assessing the availability of biomedical services, while learning the Malagasy language.

Jim Siegel banding and releasing a duck in Toppenish, WA with the Yakama Nation Wildlife Program. He did his dissertation work studying the Yakima approach to wetland restoration. He did participant observation of a variety of activities including monitoring salmon fishing scaffolds, banding mallards and yellow-headed blackbirds, and radiotelemetry of white pelicans.

Summer 2007: Drs. Steve Kowalewski, Elois Ann Berlin and Brent Berlin at the Atzompa sector of the ancient city of Monte Albán, Oaxaca, Mexico. This neighborhood was built and occupied between about A.D. 350 and 600.

Tammy Watkins in Nanam, Turkana District, Kenya. She is doing research for her dissertation, “Children’s contributions to pastoralist livelihoods in the drylands of East Africa.” Tammy and the Turkana children relax and clown around in front of a clinic building. Tammy notes that “most, but not all of the kids were my ‘subjects’—Who was studying who?”
María Ruth Martínez, conducting ethnobotanical research for her dissertation work in remote Tsimane’ communities in the Bolivian Amazon. The Tsimane’ are one of the Amazonian groups in Bolivia that historically have had less contact with western culture than others. In this pic, she’s asking Isabel about the plants Maria Ruth’s collected; questions about their habitat, lifecycle and uses.

Dave Himmelfarb and Jessie Fly, in Tra Vinh Province in the Mekong Delta, where Jessie is working on dissertation research and Dave is writing papers. Jessie came to Vietnam to study the long-term effects of Agent Orange, but she says that “as any good research project does... mine fell apart.” She’s now studying aquaculture and bank debt. Regarding such shifts, Jessie and Dave say “C’est la Nam!”

Nemer Narchi, participating in a NSF-funded course, observing medicinal plants in Bolivia. Here he’s in the Tsimane’ territory, identifying and collecting wild edibles. These plants are not grown or maintained by people, but are harvested regularly. Even though they aren’t a main food source, their use announces the existence, maintenance and management of traditional knowledge in the community.

Dr. René Bobe in the Chilean Andes. Fortunately for him, the dinosaur who left these prints is no longer around.

In our corner of the world—
Celebrate the 13th anniversary of the Ethnoecology/Biodiversity Laboratory on April 4, 2008
Reception and Open House 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Symposium at the Botanical Garden with
Guest Speaker Gary Nabham 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Campfire at the Agrarian Connections Farm, Oglethorpe County, in the evening.
Everyone’s invited!

Dr. Virginia Nazarea with the Women’s Culinary Revival Group in the Potato Park where native potato varieties deposited in the International Potato Center gene bank are being repatriated and reintegrated into Quechua farming systems.

Maria Ruth Martínez, conducting ethnobotanical research for her dissertation work in remote Tsimane’ communities in the Bolivian Amazon. The Tsimane’ are one of the Amazonian groups in Bolivia that historically have had less contact with western culture than others. In this pic, she’s asking Isabel about the plants Maria Ruth’s collected; questions about their habitat, lifecycle and uses.
March Professional Meetings

March is typically chock-full of professional meetings, so it can seem that our entire department is on a road trip some weeks. Four organizations are holding annual meetings:

- Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) will be sharing meeting time and space with the SfAA in Memphis, as well as other cities.
- Society for American Archaeology (SAA) holds its 73rd annual meeting in Vancouver, BC Canada, March 26-March 30.

We have many presenters of both papers and posters at these events—Some of those sharing their research include:

Jim Veteto and Ted Maclin are co-chairing at the SfAA meetings on Wednesday: “The Raw and the Slow-Cooked: The Anthropology of West Tennessee Barbeque.”

Tammy Watkins will be presenting a talk on “Continuing Adaptation in Turkana Risk Minimization” at SfAAs on Friday, 3.28. the Turkana live in a region in Kenya.

Cheryl McClary presents at two March conferences: For the SAS she’ll participate in the session called “Southern Memories”; her paper is titled “The New South and the New South: Issues of scale in a global watered context.”

For the SfAAs she’ll be part of the session called “Marine Resources and Public Policy.” Her paper is titled “What happens when you can’t pay the bill? Equity Issues on cost and access to water in an Alabama coastal community.”

Amber Huff will be part of the Society for Medical Anthropology biennial gathering on Friday, March 28 in Memphis, where SMA presenters will display and speak about their posters. Amber’s is called, “‘People with bad ideas’: illness, magic and medicing in rural southwestern Madagascar.

Carol Colannino is part of a symposium on shell midden research at SAA. Her paper, “Vertebrate Fauna and Shell Midden Formation at the St. Catherine’s Shell Ring (9Li231), Georgia, USA, examines seasonally-sensitive vertebrate fauna in the biostratigraphy of the St. Catherine’s Shell Ring to determine seasonal trends in shell midden formation.

March Professional Meetings

Recent Awards

Drs. Brent Berlin and Elois Ann Berlin receive international award

The Society for Economic Botany has selected both Dr. Brent Berlin and Dr. Elois Ann Berlin to share jointly in receiving the 2008 Distinguished Economic Botanist Award. This is the most prestigious award conferred by the Society, founded in 1959.

Jim Veteto awarded sustainable agriculture scholarship

Annie’s Homegrown Natural Food Company has awarded Jim Veteto a $2500 Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship. Jim wrote on the topic “Seeds of Persistence: The Ethnoecology of Agrobiodiversity Maintenance in the American Mountain South.” Among his research goals is to learn why rural people persist in growing folk crop varieties, which knowledge he hopes will enable us to more easily incorporate heirloom vegetable varieties into sustainable agricultural systems.

Sarah Hunt wins AAA Rappaport Prize

At the annual meeting in Washington D.C. from Nov. 28-Dec. 2, the American Anthropological Association awarded Sarah Hunt the Rappaport Prize for best student paper in the category of Anthropology and the Environment. Her paper is titled “Ecosystem science and engineering and the anthropology of trouble: Exploring tensions at the intersections of environmental values and scientific objectivity.”

Archaeology graduate students honored

Carol Colannino has won the 2007-2008 Laerm Award. This honor supports field or collection-oriented research encompassing a broad interest in evolutionary processes and relationships among organisms in the natural world.

The Society for American Archaeology has awarded graduate student Sarah Bergh the 2008 Dienje Kenyon Fellowship. This $500 fellowship supports research by women archaeologists in the area of Zooarchaeology as they pursue their early training.

Four anthropology students win the Graduate School Dean’s Award

Four Anthropology graduate students have won the Graduate School Dean’s Award in the arts and humanities. Only 18 awards are made yearly, throughout the school’s disciplines, so the Department of Anthropology’s performance is particularly impressive. Each of our students who applied received the award, which is extremely unusual. Jenna Andrews, Lisa Chaudhari, Ben Steere, and Sarah Bergh each receive $1000 to complete their dissertation research.

This is the second consecutive year that Jenna has won the dean’s award.

Ben Steere’s work focuses on prehistoric households in the Southeastern U.S.